



A Bi-Monthly Newsletter For Volunteers By Volunteers

ARBORETUM CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Nov—Dec 2018

1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (775)-785-4153

Volume 1 Issue 1



The Arboretum Connections First Issue is Here!

Welcome to the first issue of the May Arboretum Connections newsletter. Our goal is to keep arboretum volunteers more informed of the opportunities that are available at the gardens all year long. We plan on publishing the newsletter bi-monthly and including updates of current programs and the various ways you can volunteer. Each newsletter will feature: a **Meet The Staff** interview, introducing you a little more personally one of our many wonderful folks; **Upcoming Events**, to let you know what programs and special events are happening in the next couple of months; **What's Blooming?** showcases what's looking particularly lovely this time of year in the park; and the **Volunteer's Corner** section will highlight new ways you can volunteer, as well as upcoming training. We'll have other articles about birding in the park, new building projects, as well as individual in depth spotlights of our various educational programs.

This newsletter is for you, the Wilbur D. May Arboretum workers and volunteers. We hope you enjoy it and please feel free to contact me for comments, ideas, and suggestions to help create a great connection between you and the arboretum.



Thanks, Bev Treadway, Editor

Email: Lingonberrylilacs@gmail.com

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Volunteer's Corner

The Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden is brimming with a huge variety of trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers all of which require thousands of hours of tender loving care each year. A large volunteer base is critical to keep the gardens in prime condition all year round. Last year alone, volunteers spent close to 5,500 hours maintaining the gardens, giving tours, and participating in May Arboretum Society events. There is no shortage of work to be done, and we can always use YOUR help!

Here are some ways you can get involved:

BECOME AN ARBORETUM GARDEN VOLUNTEER

Arboretum volunteers are required to fill out a volunteer application and background check before being cleared to begin volunteering. Once cleared, a brief orientation is required with the volunteer coordinator, and you will be asked to attend a session on the history of Wilbur May and the gardens with the Arboretum Horticulturist Bill Carlos.

Once established, volunteers arrive as their schedules permit on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays between 8am and noon. Volunteer tasks are lined out on a bulletin board each day in the Arboretum office and tools are available so that volunteers can work at their own pace. Staff and seasoned volunteers are available to answer questions, and periodic training on various subjects is offered - as well as fun volunteer appreciation events!

Some sample volunteer tasks include pruning, deadheading, raking, weeding, sweeping, planting, and a variety of other general garden beautification projects.

BECOME A TOUR DOCENT OR GUIDE

After the completing the above volunteer history and garden training, there is an additional training available for those wishing to be a docent or guide. It features accompanying other docents on tours and completing one on one practices with an Arboretum educator.

THERE ARE MORE PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT THAT NEED YOUR HELP!

Please see contact **Katie Bird** at 775- 785-4153 and kbird@washoecounty.us or **Denise Evans** at 775-785-4512 x 107, to find out ways your talents are needed at the park.



Meet the Staff: Katie Bird, AmeriCorps Educator



Please join me in welcoming our newest member of the arboretum staff, Katie Bird. Katie is an AmeriCorps Educator and while born in Oklahoma, calls Delaware her home. Katie grew up in a military family and is the oldest of 8 siblings. After finishing school in northern Delaware, she spent time in New Hampshire before moving to Reno.

Katie lives in Reno with boyfriend Billy, a leopard gecko, and a corn snake. She enjoys exploring her new home, hiking in the mountains, and of course, looking for birds.

We are so excited to have Katie at the Arboretum, she has a deep love for conservation, and helping others find their own personal nature connection to the place they live. In her short tenure, Katie has brought in programs such as Friday Bird Walks and Hallo-week at the Arboretum, which focused on autumn inspired STEAM activities for kids, aged 6-10.

Spotlight On: Good Nature Tours For Older Adults

Good Nature Tours For Older Adults celebrated it's 1 year anniversary this past October 6th. Laura Robertson was inspired by senior walking groups in other parks around Reno, and wanted to bring something similar to the May Arboretum. She enlisted the help of Bev Treadway, and together they have brought a unique and interesting program to the roster of the Arboretum's tours. It's more like a walk with good friends, than it is a formal tour. Each walk's topic is new and different. Some of past topics have included, The Victorian Language of Flowers; Wildlife Wakes Up; The Saga of Wilbur D May; The Wind. The Washoe Zephyr and Mark Twain; and Love Stories in the Garden. The last scheduled tour for the season is Nov 2 at 1pm. Join us for Legends of the Fall.



Strolling Through Kirsten's Garden on the October 19th Good Nature Tour.

Special Events at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

November 2018

- ◆ **Nov 2 Good Nature Tour** 1pm "Legends in the Fall"
- ◆ **Nov 2 Bird Walk** 4pm. Kids welcome, some binoculars provided.
- ◆ **Nov 9 Bird Walk** 4pm
- ◆ **Nov 10 Weekend Nature Walk** 10 am. For families with children 10 and under
- ◆ **Nov 16 Bird Walk** 4pm
- ◆ **Nov 27 Little Sprouts** 10 am. "A Squirrel Story" for ages 2-5. Program includes a lesson, story, craft, and exploration time.

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December 2018

- ◆ **Dec 1 Weekend Nature Walk** 10 am
- ◆ **Dec 2 May Arboretum Society Ornament workshop** 1pm. See MAS website for details & registration.
- ◆ **Dec 3 Cabin Fever;** Crafts and fun for kids and accompanying adult. Time TBA
- ◆ **Dec 7 Good Nature Tour** 1pm "Tales of Christmas"
- ◆ **Dec 10 Cabin Fever**
- ◆ **Dec 15 Weekend Nature Walk** 10am
- ◆ **Dec 18 Little Sprouts** 10 am "Forever Green" for ages 2-5

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Words on Birds

By Katie Bird



This edition's featured bird is the White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*). These birds get their name from the striking black & white stripes on the top of their heads, which they only get as adults – juvenile birds have brown stripes instead.

In autumn they frequently practice their sweet, lyrical song early in the morning from scrubby fields and amongst the sagebrush. Listen carefully for ones that sound unrehearsed: these are juveniles that are just now learning to sing!

These sparrows are also found throughout the north part of the Arboretum (especially around Lear Garden), other city parks, and even backyards, all year round. They generally forage on the ground for seeds and insects, but may come to a feeder for sunflower seeds. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the oldest White-crowned Sparrow ever recorded was over 13 years old.

Be sure to look for these stunning little birds on your next walk through the Arboretum!

New Teen and Tween Programs Coming Soon!



TEEN BIRDING Intended for ages 12 and over, this program will introduce what bird watching (birding) is, how to identify birds by sight and sound, and why the hobby can be useful for environmental scientists.

INVESTIGATING INSECTS Intended for ages 10-12, this program will introduce the fundamentals of entomology, engage kids in the importance of citizen science, and encourage journaling and photography

BIOBLITZ SERIES Kids will engage their senses in a biological survey race: think Pokémon Go, but with real-life creatures!

TEEN CITIZEN SCIENTISTS Teens will use the platform iNaturalist to design their own observational or experimental study, collect data from the gardens, and create a presentation showing what they learned.

What's Blooming?

It's fall, and cooler weather is setting in. November gives us our last chance to check out the bountiful roses in the both the Rose Garden and Honey's Garden, before the frost sets in. If you love fall color, now is time to visit the garden. Kleiner's Oak grove is in its splendor, and the squirrels are out in force harvesting the acorns! You can also watch birds feast on the orange pyracantha berries just outside of Kristen's garden. The chrysanthemums are bountiful through out the garden, there is much to see!



Entering the [Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden](#), you can sense that there is something special here. With a diverse plant community, beautiful garden layouts, and foliage changing with the seasons, it really is the jewel of Reno, Nevada! We have opportunities for all ages to explore, learn, celebrate, and get involved. Take a look around and see what peaks your interests. Your next outdoor adventure awaits at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden!



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